Salal Hydro-Electric Power Project

2356. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) when was the work on Salal Hydro- electric Power Project in Jammu and Kashmir commenced;

(b) what was its estimated cost at the time of commencement and period for completion;

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed and what will be its eventual cost; and

(d) what measures, if any, have been taken to ensure that such abnormal delays and cost escalations do not occur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Salal Hydro-electric Project in J&K was taken up in two stages. The first stage consisting of three units of 115 MW each was completed in November, 1987. The second stage comprising another three units of 115 MW each was sanctioned in September, 1989 at an estimated cost of Rs. 210.62 crores for completion by September, 1993.

(c) While the three generating units of stage II have been commissioned, the full generation benefits from the project will be available only after the completion of a separate tail race tunnel for Stage II in 1st quarter of 1995-96. The revised estimated cost of the project is Rs. 305.20 crores.

(d) The measures taken to control delays and cost escalation include strengthening of the organisational structure at the project level, close monitoring of project implementation and ensuring availability of adequate funds for execution of the works.

Coal-based Power Projects by NTPC in Southern Region

2357. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has decided to start several coal based power projects in the Southern region to meet power shortage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any private sector has also offered to start power projects in the Southern region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To meet the shortage of power in the Southern Region, the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is exploring the possibilities of identifying project sites for erection of coal based plants. The Ramagundam coal based expansion project (1×500 MW) and the dual fuel (Gas and Naphtha) based Kayamkulam Project (400 MW) have been identified. Andhra Pradesh Government has allotted two projects to NTPC (i) Simhadri (Vizag) of 1000 MW coal fired and (ii) Hyderabad Metro 650 MW-Naphtha based, for implementation.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The private sector has shown interest for setting up power projects in the Southern Region of a total capacity of about 27308.50 MW. This comprises 33 projects for 13873 MW in Andhra Pradesh, 28 projects for 5495 MW in Karnataka, 12 projects for 520.50 MW in Kerala and 12 projects for 7420 MW in Tamil Nadu. The details are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 173, Annexure No 53].

Official Audit in DESU

2358. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that official audit in DESU has not been conducted during the past five years inspite of directives issued by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to issue strict directive to the State Government/DESU to conduct audit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.